

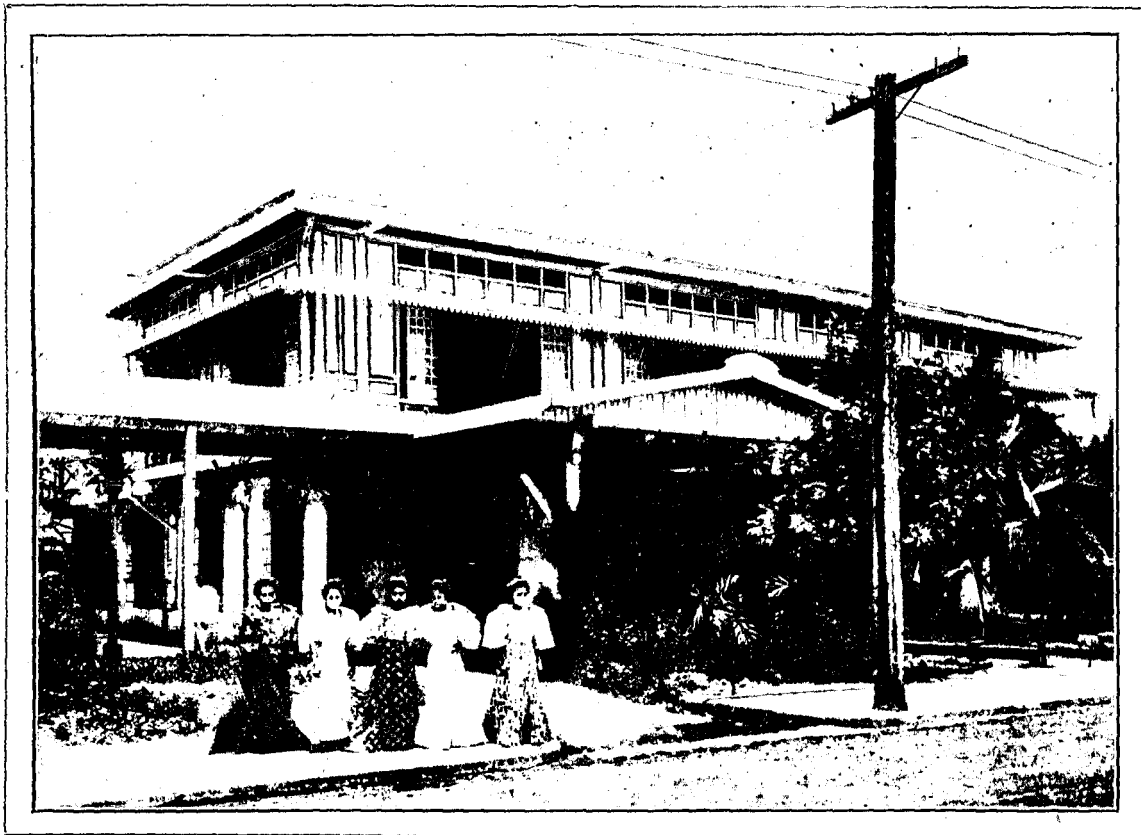
## Hospitals and Nursing in the Philippines.\*

By Miss M. E. McCALMONT,

*Superintendent, Civil Hospital, Manila, and  
Supervising Nurse of the Bureau of Health.*

It may be only from my close proximity, or it may actually be a fact, but it does seem to the writer that in no portion of the globe could there be a greater opportunity for nurses or nursing than in the Philippine Islands. Since the Ameri-

all; but their movements and history while here are of no special moment to this report, as practically all left the Islands as soon as their immediate duty was fulfilled. A few of the Red Cross nurses went into the army, but with the adoption of Civil Government the Army Nursing Corps has been gradually reduced, until there are now possibly not more than twenty nurses in the Islands. The work of the Army and Navy Corps will always be localised, and devoted practically to the Americans; the real nursing of the Philippine Islands—the work what will reach the people—will be dependent upon, and represented by, the nurses em-



Nurses in Native Costume in Front of the Dormitory, the Civil Hospital, Manila.

can occupation much has been done, especially in the last two years, or since the beginning of the Training School for Filipina nurses in Manila; but there is still such a great field, and such large opportunities, both altruistic and financial, it seems rather a pity that the nursing profession does not know more of this far away, but most interesting, corner of the Orient.

The first American nurses who came to the Islands were, of course, the Red Cross and the army nurses, who came over during, and right after, the Spanish-American War. There were about 125 in

\* Report presented to the International Council of Nurses, London, 1909.

employed by the Civil Government, those of private institutions, and lastly, but most important, by the native trained nurses themselves.

The Bureau of Health has charge of all the civil hospitals in the Philippine Islands, with their accompanying nursing force. While this Bureau is responsible for all the medical and sanitary inspection of the islands, besides aiding many private hospitals and charitable organisations, yet it directs, controls, and operates the Civil Hospital, Bilibid Hospital, and San Lazaro, all of Manila; the Baguio Civil Sanitarium of Benguet (the summer capitol of the Philippines), and the Culion Leper Hospital. The Civil Hospital of Manila furnishes free medical and surgical treatment to all

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)